The details of such proposals cleared for implementation by the Government during the last three years are given below:—

(i) National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) urea expansion project at Nangal, Punjab for expansion of the existing production capacity of urea by 1.48 lakh tonnes per annum (TPA) at an estimated cost of Rs. 135.13 crore was approved by the Government in May, 2000. The project is scheduled to be commissioned by 11.5.2001. A total expenditure of Rs. 69.07 crore has been incurred on the project till the end of July, 2000 and it has achieved an overall physical progress of 82.2%.

(ii) The revamp of the Namrup plants of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC), at an approved cost of Rs. 350 crore approved by the Government in October, 1997 is under implementation. After revamp, the plant will have the capacity of 5.3 lakh TPA of urea. A total expenditure of Rs. 36.86 crore has been incurred on the project till the end of July, 2000 and it has achieved an overall physical progress of 57.90%.

Closing down of HFC units

2792. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the units of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. proposed to be closed down;

(b) the units proposed to be retained and restructured;

(c) the amount to be spent on each of these units for restructuring; and

(d) the action taken to ensure that interests of workers of the units to be closed are safeguarded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) While a decision has already been taken by the Government to close/hive off the Haldia Fertilizer Project which could never be commissioned, the ravamp of the Namrup Unit of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. (HFC) has also been approved at a cost of Rs. 350 crore. Comprehensive rehabilitation proposal based on unitwise techno-economic viability for the remaining units of HFC is to be submitted to

the competent authority in the Government and thereafter, for final sanction of BIFR keeping in view the Government's declared policy towards Public Sector, which is to restructure and revive potentially viable PSUs, close down PSUs which cannot be revived, while fully protecting the interest of workers.

SC/ST dealers of NFL

†2793. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dealers appointed by the Vijaypur unit of National Fertilizers Limited, situated in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh during the last five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had issued direction to public sector fertiliser undertakings in 1978 to reserve twenty five per cent dealerships for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(c) if so, whether the said unit has followed the said direction; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has been following the policy of reserving 25% of all future appointment of dealers for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) as per the instructions issued by Government of India in 1978. But the response has not been encouraging. During last five years NFL has appointed 1132 fertilizer dealers of which 804 are for Vijaipur unit. Of the total dealers, only 50 dealers belong to SCs/STs.

Inclusion of new drugs in negative list

2794. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to include some more drugs and intermediates in the negative list of imports in the current year and coming two years;

(b) if so, the names of those drugs and intermediates;

(c) if not, the countries from where those drugs are likely to be imported; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi